

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1142

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SHUPAK, HARRY) CIUS, JA

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF U.S.
CITIZEN

REF: STATE 181741

1. ACCORDING TO INVESTIGATION SECTION, TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE, HARRY SHUPAK (SHUPAS ACCORDING TO POLICE RECORD) WAS QUESTIONED AT THE TSUKISHIMA POLICE STATION, NEAR THE URASHIMA HOTEL, EVENING OF JUNE 18, 1976. HE WAS BROUGHT TO THE STATION BY AN OFFICER WHO FELT HIS DEMEANOR SUSPICIOUS. HE WAS QUESTIONED FROM 8:10 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M. AND ASKED TO SIGN A STATEMENT EXPRESSING HIS REGRETS FOR HAVING VIOLATED JAPANESE LAW PERTAINING TO PASSPORTS AND ALIEN REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION. HE REFUSED TO SIGN AN APOLOGY. THE POLICE THEN RETURNED HIM TO HIS HOTEL TO VERIFY HIS POSSESSION OF A PASSPORT AND ENTRY TO JAPAN. THE POLICE CONSIDERED THE MATTER CLOSED AFTER WARNING SHUPAS ABOUT THE LAW REQUIRING HIM TO HAVE HIS PASSPORT WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES. THE POLICE DENY PLACING HIM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AFTER THE INCIDENT.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW, SHUPAS REPORTEDLY CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN A HIGH RANKING OFFICER WITH GHQ; THAT HE KNEW JAPANESE LAW; THAT HE HAD BEEN A POLICE SUPERINTENDENT IN HONOLULU; THAT HE WOULD REPORT THIS INCIDENT WHEN HE RETURNED TO HONOLULU. (THE CHIEF OF THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A LETTER DATED JUNE 19 FROM SHUPAS AND HAS ANSWERED IT).

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3. SHUPAS ALSO WROTE TO THE EDITOR OF THE JAPAN TIMES, THE LEADING ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER IN TOKYO, WHICH APPEARED IN THE LETTERS-TO-THE-EDITOR COLUMN AND COMPLAINED OF "GESTAPO" TYPE TREATMENT BY THE POLICE. A NUMBER OF READERS REACTED TO SHUPAS' LETTER WITH ADDITIONAL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, GIVING BOTH FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE ACCOUNTS OF THE POLICE FROM THEIR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

4. WHILE JAPANESE IMMIGRATION LAW REQUIRES ALL FOREIGNERS, 14 YEARS AND OLDER, TO CARRY THEIR PASSPORTS OR ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS AT ALL TIMES, THE SHUPAS INCIDENT AND EVEN SOME RECENT CASES OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL BEING ASKED FOR THEIR IDENTIFICATION CARDS DOES INDICATE A POSSIBLE TREND OF STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS. WHEN QUERIED BY THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, TOKYO POLICE DENIED THIS IS A NEW POLICY AND ONE POLICE SPOKESMAN INDICATED INCREASED POLICE INVESTIGATION WAS RELATED TO EFFORTS TO CURB GROWING INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS SMUGGLING.
SHOESMITH

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